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The Playground

COMMUNITY
SERVICE

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE
PIGEON COOP

By AL PRIDDY

ADULT RECREATION

DECEMBER
1919

25
CENTS

The Playground

Published monthly at Cooperstown, New York
for the
Playground and Recreation Association of
America
1 Madison Avenue, New York City

Membership

Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a
member of the Association for the
ensuing year



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Entered as second-class matter August 8, 1916, at the Post Office
at Cooperstown, New York, under act of March 1 1879. Copy-
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"THE MAN ON OUR STREET"

Our town had a outdoor Chris'mas tree
Saturday night! It looked great—gee,
Ev'ry kid in town was there,
An' all their folks, too, jus' packed the square.
An' when the lights was turned on, they
Was all struck in a heap—an' say!
I never seen a thing so bright,
All lit green n' red n' white!
(Next day the Man on Our Street said,
"Trees don't make Chris'mas, Ted,"
An'—he was right.)

The Santy Claus, he was a dandy,
He guv each kid a stockin' —candy!
I guess I got a half pound, sure,
Jim Dean got more—his folks is poor—
Beside the candy there was toys,
Some fer girls, some fer us boys.
Some fellers wasn't too polite
To crowd right in, n' push n' fight!
("Pshaw!" The Man on Our Street said:
"Stockin's don't make Chris'mas, Ted,"
An'—he was right.)

They throwed some carols on a screen,
An' we all sang—me an' Jim Dean
Tried to see which could sing the most,
An' he did easy. (But he don't boast.
That's why I like Jim—better'n Lew, or
Skinny Smith—but my! his folks is poor!)
I liked that song best, "Silent Night,"
I wish' they'd sung it twice—they might!
("Well," The Man on Our Street said:
"Singin' don't make Chris'mas, Ted,"
An'—he was right.)

I wish't they'd have one ev'ry year,
So folks 'd come from far an' near—
Not so much for the things they git;
But ta see the crowds n' the tree all lit,
Ta feel 'at all the whole thing's for
Is ta make folks like each other more;
'At while the tree's a smashin' sight,
The show ain't all of it, quite!
("Now," The Man on Our Street said:
"It's lovin' the kids makes Chris'mas, Ted,"
An'—he was right.)



RECEPTION TO THE 159TH REGIMENT AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,
SHOWING THE VICTORY CHORUS IN THE LINE OF MARCH

The Playground

Vol. XIII No. 9

DECEMBER, 1919

The World at Play

Monotony and Industrial Unrest.—"Among the complaints that Mr. Hecht found among the striking workers in Gary the most frequent was the lack of time for recreation. Some of the men seemed to welcome the strike chiefly because it gave them a chance to go to picture shows with the 'missus' and to play with the children. All this calls attention to a very significant factor in the unrest that leads to such industrial convulsions as the steel strike. When workers either have not enough leisure for reasonable recreation or think they have not because they do not know how to go about utilizing their hours at home, discontent with the monotony of life is reasonably sure to affect their attitude toward their employers and everything else that touches their lives.

"A genuine understanding of the need of workers for wholesome recreation and of its usefulness in promoting

happiness and contentment underlies the plan to extend to industrial communities in time of peace the War Camp Community Service which did excellent work in camps and industrial centers in war time. This service proposes so to organize the recreational resource of these communities as to make their enjoyment easy and beneficial. It aims to provide a stimulating substitute for the saloon, too often the main recourse of many workers against the monotony of everyday existence. It, of course, cannot provide men with leisure, but when recreation is attractive and accessible the chances are that the average worker will find he has more leisure for enjoyment than he thought. In addition to its purely recreational features, the Community Service proposes to cultivate a true neighborhood spirit, to teach the foreign born the lesson of Americanization and to organize the social and educational, as well

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as the recreational, faculties of communities on broad and democratic lines.

"In brief, this admirable service wishes to do everything possible to make the industrial communities good and interesting places to live in. They are too frequently merely places to make a living in"—From Editorial Page Chicago Daily News September 25, 1919

Recreation Resolution before Industrial Conference.—The industrial standards relating to child welfare which were drawn up as a result of the International Child Welfare Conference held last spring in Washington, after having passed through the hands of a Revision Committee and being made official were submitted to the President's Industrial Conference.

Among the resolutions are the following:

"The desire for recreation and amusement is a normal expression of every child which must be considered in any program for the physical and moral education of children. Parents and others charged with their care should be educated to the importance of recreation. Public provision should be made for wholesome play and rec-

reation, both indoor and outdoor, under trained leadership, and especially adapted to different age periods.

"Commercialized amusements should be safeguarded by official supervisors having a scientific knowledge of recreation."

National Budget Committee.—Better citizenship is the purpose of the National Budget Committee with headquarters at No. 6 Church Street, New York City, which aims to enroll 10,000 Fortnightly Budget Clubs through the country by the first of the year.

Members of the National Budget Committee propose through the clubs to arouse voters to a keener sense of personal responsibility in the selection of city, county, state and national officers. The clubs will serve, it is hoped, as public forums for the discussion of vital, economic problems of the day.

The Fortnightly discussions will be held in clubs, churches, settlement houses and other public gathering places. Topics for discussion will be furnished by National Budget Committee speakers.

They Boost Their Community.—Community boost-

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ing was the key-note of the pageant given at the San Joaquin County Fair at Stockton, California, on October 10th. Twelve different agencies comprising 1500 people participated in the pageant, which was from start to finish a community affair.

The very programs sounded the community emphasis in no uncertain terms. "Stockton Pageant given by the Community, promoted by the Playground and Recreation Commission," and, at the bottom of the program, "We are keen for San Joaquin."

Community boosting through community recreation is bound to pay!

Memorial Building by Gift.
—Spring Lake, New Jersey has recently received a gift from its mayor of a plot of ground to be used as a site for a community house which will include an assembly room, library, gymnasium, museum and other rooms adapted to meet community needs. The community house will be a tribute to the heroism of the fifty-eight boys of Spring Lake who served in the war.

In addition to the grounds, Mayor Brown has given \$100,000 for the erection of the building on condition that the citizens of Spring Lake shall

raise a similar amount as an endowment fund. With the backing of the summer residents there is no doubt that the townspeople will raise the necessary amount.

English Village Clubs.—According to the Associated Press more than 350 English villages have organized branches of the Village Clubs Association, a union of rural community societies through which it is planned to make country life more attractive. In each of these communities clubhouses have been constructed varying in size and appointments from a simple reading room, which may also be made to serve as a general meeting place, to Nettlebed's pretentious village hall, which offers men's and women's dressing rooms, library, reading and billiard rooms, a play shed, skittle alley, rifle range and kitchen.

In the organization of these clubs four points are given prime consideration:

1. Both men and women are eligible for membership.
2. The clubs shall be non-political and non-sectarian.
3. All clubs shall be self-supporting.
4. All clubs shall be administered by a committee elected by the members.

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From the Heart of Asia.—

From Siangtan, Hunan, China, one thousand miles inland, comes the request for literature and suggestions for recreational activities to be developed at the community center which has just been started in that city.

A New Role for the Clown.

—The Child's Health Organization at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, has devised a novel method of disseminating to children information on health subjects. Chu Chu, a clown, is sent to the various playgrounds in New York City to play with the children and talk with them on subjects relating to their health. This method of propaganda is very much appreciated by the children.

Pageantry on Steps.—

Mrs. Marie Moore Forrest, Director of Drama and Pageantry of Washington, D. C., War Camp Community Service, has found the steps of the national buildings an ideal background for pageant rituals. Smaller communities might well utilize a noble Town Hall or Court House with a square before it, as was done by Duxbury, Massachusetts in its Pilgrim Pageant.

Mrs. Moore says:

"Very beautiful dances of the eccentric type can be given on the steps and small platforms in front of city or town buildings. Form dances are also possible. I have seen the Minuet danced on a flight of steps with very beautiful effect. A long flight of steps is particularly adapted to rhythmic dancing. It gives a freedom and a floating effect which is very wonderful. Rituals and marches are very effective on steps. Anyone who is a student of the spectacular on the commercial stage will realize that some of the very best effects are produced by marchers coming down from high platforms or steps at the back of the stage. Great pageant marches are effective coming down streets and going up on the steps for a final picture."

New Orleans Children Gain in Physical Efficiency.—

A series of farewell play festivals held during September marked the end of the summer playground season in New Orleans. This does not mean, however, that the playgrounds will close, for the splendid climatic conditions of New Orleans make possible a year-round program of activities.

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That the children attending the New Orleans playground are really being benefited is evidenced in the results of the physical efficiency tests which have lately been conducted. Out of a total of 906 children who have thus far been given the tests, 286 have qualified for the silver badge offered by the playground commission. This is a decided improvement over last year's record.

Utica Makes Progress.—Recreational activities in Utica under the recently appointed Recreation Commission are reported to have made splendid progress during the summer months. Eight playgrounds, two of which were new this year, served 102,398 children representing an increase over last year of 29%.

One of the most encouraging features of the work was the spirit of cooperation shown by the play leaders. When it became evident that the funds appropriated by the city were not sufficient to buy game supplies and the many small articles of equipment needed on the playgrounds, the leaders organized a club known as the "Recreation Boosters" to raise funds for the purchasing of supplies. Under the auspices of this

club the Philharmonic gave a concert on the lawn of one of the residents of the city. The money raised in this way was augmented by contributions from citizens and by a check for \$273.13 which represented the sum collected by the Industrial Baseball League at one of their championship games. The equipment and supplies bought by the Boosters were turned over to the city.

The Recreation Department was frequently called on during the summer for assistance. During the tractor demonstration representatives of the department provided recreation for the children brought to the demonstration by their parents. On a number of occasions the department helped various community groups in mapping out athletic programs for picnics and field days. The entire athletic program for the field day of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the state was turned over to the Recreation Department.

World Series Bulletin.—Attention, Baseball Fans! Good publicity and a service which won great popularity for the recreation work of the city were the by-products achieved by the Bureau of Recreation

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of Pittsburgh in bulletining the World Series scores in front of the City-County Building of Pittsburgh. It is estimated that for eight days there were crowds each day of more than 3,000 men watching the bulletins.

Through the hearty cooperation of the Mayor, the traffic was diverted during the times the scores were bulletined and the people had the full square in front of the building without interruption or danger of accidents. The service was fully appreciated by the crowds of jolly, good-natured citizens, who enjoyed themselves hugely.

Helpful Christmas Cards.—Readers of *THE PLAYGROUND* who have not come in contact with the Christmas postcards sold for the benefit of the French children whose fathers were killed in the war will be interested in knowing of the work of the Fatherless Children of France, Incorporated.

At the bottom of the postcards published by the Society, which are intended to be sent out to friends at Christmas time is printed, "In your name I am giving happiness to a French soldier's orphan for a day." The ten cents for which the card is sold represents the amount necessary

for feeding an orphan in its mother's home for a day. In addition to the cards a four-page calendar may be secured for thirty cents.

Further information may be secured from the headquarters of the New York Committee of the organization at No. 11 West 46th Street, New York City.

Play Needs Recognized in 1824.—Organized recreation is very often spoken of as a movement of comparatively recent origin in this country. That it had its pioneer advocates many years ago was recently pointed out by Professor Roger Lee, of Harvard, in an address to the Freshman class when he read a letter dated October 24, 1824 written by Dr. J. C. Warren, an eminent surgeon of Boston, to the Honorable John Lowell, Chairman of a Committee of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University. The letter says:

"There is one branch of education, the improvement of which seems to fall even especially within the cognizance of my department, and on this I feel myself called on to say something, because it has been in a great measure neglected.

"The neglect of gymnastic

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exercise is a most lamentable deficiency in our mode of education. When I look around upon a collection of students in our College and observe their puny, sickly appearance, I experience a profound affection of pity and regret, especially when I consider that many of these individuals may have to obtain subsistence by considerable efforts.

"It is known that this receives great attention in foreign universities, and that various means are employed to encourage students in the pursuit of healthy exercise. Is it impracticable here?

"I have thought that if a piece of land were laid out at some little distance from the College, divided into four compartments separated by hedges, one compartment for each class, provided with incitements to run, jump, throw quoits or javelins, bats and balls, a small shed or building in each for occasional shelter, with necessary apparatus which should be as var-

ious as possible and under the charge of a single waiter, and the place occasionally visited by the tutors in a familiar way, it being understood that every student was to pass some time there daily, and when the ground is covered with snow that they should themselves remove it, proper conveniences being supplied.

"It appears to me this would not fail of producing excellent effects on the moral and physical disposition of the students. I know not what difficulties may have prevented the execution of some such plan. It appears to me that if there be a deficiency of funds, an adequate sum might be raised by subscription for an object of so much consequence. But if it cannot be otherwise accomplished than by some sacrifice, I firmly believe there is not one branch of education which might not be advantageously exchanged for this."

—From the Harvard Alumni Bulletin, Oct. 6, 1919

It has been suggested that the regular army is now a thing of the past, that it is dead. General Haan says that it is literally true, that fifty per cent of the regular army that existed before the world war is a thing of the past, is dead; for the men are now buried in France, but that it is the spirit of the army transmitted to the volunteer army which made the whole American forces fight as they did.

My Camp-Town Comrades

III

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE PIGEON COOP

AL PRIDDY

If I were asked to give what seemed to be the motto of the military camp, it would be:

"To Be What We Ain't."

For, when the soldiers came into Camp-town at night for their fun, every corporal didn't see why he wasn't a sergeant, every sergeant didn't see why he was not a captain, and every captain had a reason why he should have been a major, or, more reasonably, the Major General.

There was one soldier, for instance, who spent a good half hour boasting of his fitness to be a first lieutenant. He said the officers were jealous of him and kept him down. He said he had told them that much, and much more, more times than one. On hearing that, I told him that one thing that did not make a lieutenant out of a private, in the army or anywhere else, was being rude.

Well, that is the way it seemed to go. Even the biggest soldier in the camp was a man who had to stay in America. Somebody said that this officer did not see why he was not in charge of things over in France.

But there was one soldier I met in Camp-town who was perfectly contented with what he was. He didn't want to be more than he was. He never looked through green eyes at anybody; not even the commanding general with his two stars.

This soldier I speak of held no rank. His arm had no bars or stars upon it. Nobody saluted him first. But he was the most contented soldier in that whole camp. Really I think of him as having been the most contented man in any army.

He was in charge of the Pigeon Coop.

Pigeons seemed to be the only living things he really cared about. The care of pigeons seemed to be his one really great concern. He talked of the feathered creatures so incessantly and with such enthusiasm that it is a wonder feathers didn't shoot out of his skin, all over.

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When he whistled, it was only to give throaty pigeon calls. When he played, it was with the downy breasts of his birds. When he talked about his life before joining the army, it was talk about racing pigeons, their records, and about the fine birds that had died some years before.

Even the fact that he was now in the army, and that there was a great world war in process hardly interested him. If you talked Germans, he talked pigeons. If you spoke of France, and of the great things being done there by American soldiers, this man said:

"Wait till I send a new batch of birds over; you'll see!"

The big question in Camp-town that we asked every soldier was, "Are you going over to France?"

When we asked that of the pigeon fancier, he said, with scorn:

"Sure not. What you think they'd do without me, eh? Who'd train the pigeons?"

He thought and acted as if the care of about twenty handfuls of pigeons made him the most responsible man in camp.

The soldier who drove the snorting ammunition truck, getting ready to serve the big guns in the big fight tapped his forehead when he heard the pigeon man talk so and said:

"Nuttty."

One day the Captain had a talk with the pigeon man.

"There's a chance for you to go into the officer's training school, so that you can work up. I'll help you."

"What, and leave these pigeons?"

That was the end of the matter.

The bayonet practice went on every day quite near the place where the pigeons were kept.

The soldier could see the gallows, with the dummy targets made of burlap and canvas. He could watch the drill as the men, with tigerish leaps, jabbed gaps in the dummies and made them bleed sawdust.

It did not thrill him half as much as did the feeding of grain or water to his birds.

Farther down in the valley, near the fringe of pines on which the red-necked vultures rested, were the practice trenches. Trenches banked by withes as they would be in France. Trenches with dug-outs, as they would be in Flanders. Trenches with fire-stands, for the gunners and bombers and flame throw-

MY CAMP-TOWN COMRADES

ers to stand on, over in France. Trenches to defend and die for against an enemy. Trenches to leap from in the heroic dash across No-Man's Land.

The pigeon man saw all that without being bothered the least bit. He smiled at it all, for he was the trainer of pigeons!

One day there was a grand review. The commanding general and his staff were seated on horses, in the middle of the dusty parade ground. The flags, the general's standard and the Stars and Stripes, were posted just in front. The military band was playing the sort of music that makes feet tickle and spines thrill.

The day was very hot, for it was mid-summer. The feet of the soldiers, the wheels of the trucks and wagons, and the passing of the guns raised such a dust as almost to hide the parade.

The Artillery were saying, in their hearts:

"We've got the Infantry skun a mile."

The Infantry were saying the same thing about the Artillery, only they were making it *two* miles.

The Captain of this company was saying:

"I've got better men than that other fellow."

For that is the spirit of a grand review.

On the stand near the General headquarters were pretty women and girls, watching. They saw the huge masses of men and thought of how fit they were for the wars. They counted them by the thousands. A whole division of big war parts; guns, wagons and men.

What they did not see, and what nobody could see for the swirl of dust was a little motor cycle, with a side car cage in which were about twenty birds in all the dusty colors from grey to brick-dust.

It was a little part of the division quite lost among the bigger parts. But the driver was saying in his heart, "I've got 'em all skun a mile."

Over on the artillery range, the big guns were blasting and snapping down the trees with shell and shrapnel in practice for blasting down towns and cities over in France. On the rustic look-outs were men at telephone wires and with watches, faces tense, registering records; records that meant life or death later.

But our pigeon soldier—the Commander-in-chief of the Pigeon Coop, was at the same time off on one of the country

MY CAMP-TOWN COMRADES

roads, miles away, waiting till the exact part of a second to release "Billy" or "Fosh" or "Juniper" from the cage.

After the birds had been released, he would almost run the long miles back to camp, and go without his supper until he had gained the green coop perched on its white-washed stilts to get the flight records of his birds. His heart thumped wildly over this. It was most important—to him.

Meanwhile, the mess sergeant, over in the barracks was sputtering:

"Him and his birds! Silly waste of good stuff."

The division moved over to France for the big battles and for victory. The pigeon man did not go, but some of his pigeons were gathered up by a special conveyance and sent off.

But the pigeon man, then, was happy, because he had a new set of green pigeons to groom and train. There was nothing he liked better than to do that. He set happily to work. One could find him in far-away towns, on far-away roads, with his new charges. Or one could find him going over the tissue paper records up in the coop, at night.

A farmer who saw the soldier flying the birds grumbled:

"That's where the taxes goes to, eh? Silly stuff like that."

Meanwhile, back in Camp-town, we were waiting for news of the two divisions of soldiers the camp had trained and sent over to France. One day the news began to trickle in. Oh, how proud we were of the Infantry, and of the Artillery. We soon began to know that big things were being done, in a big way.

Miles upon miles of trenches had been taken. Thousands upon thousands of guns had been taken.

And then, crowded in all this big exploit and grand success, was a story like this:

"The left wing of the division was trapped. The telephone wires had been shot down. The wireless was useless. No man could get through. The division was in danger. Only the birds were left. They were released. Three birds. Two fell. The third circled out of sight above the smoke. A day later reinforcements came. We were saved * * *

That was shown to the pigeon trainer in camp. It did not seem to thrill him, nor move him. A puzzled look came into his gaunt face, as if he were surprised that we had never known.

"Of course the pigeons did it," he said, "That's what I train 'em for."

Adult Recreation

Recreation for adults is absolutely necessary; the play instinct does not die with children—it calls for expression throughout life, and it is only as it is given channels of expression that men and women find their real selves and “achieve a new dimension of the soul.”

America had made a beginning of the problem of meeting the needs of adults for recreation—public recreation was coming to recognize its responsibility when the war came. From the needs which the war developed for recreation as a means of combating the abnormal conditions through a use of leisure time which would maintain a proper balance and make for normality, there has come a great quickening in recreation for the older members of the community. The experience of War Camp Community Service and other national and local agencies in developing recreational and social activities during the war period for soldiers and civilians have reemphasized the value of adult recreation and brought to the fore new possibilities of activities for young men and women and for older people. Of special value for a peace time program has been the development through a recreational program of wholesome comradeship between young men and women and the emphasis on community recreation affecting the adults of the community.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Social Activities Possibly no one group of activities has had so great an impetus given it as the social group. This is due largely to the fact that communities everywhere in extending hospitality to the men in uniform have emphasized the social features which would bring the men in service in contact with the people of the community. The splendid spirit engendered by these group gatherings should be maintained through a continuation of such activities as were conducted during the war period.

Dances Dancing has always ranked high in popularity as a social activity. There is danger of over-emphasizing this feature, and great care should be taken in safeguarding dancing through careful chaperonage and good music. No factor is more potent in determining the

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standard of a dance than the music, for clean dancing and group poise are almost wholly dependent upon the orchestra. The introduction of dance figures adds diversity of interest to dancing. In a pamphlet entitled *Games and Dance Figures*, issued by the War Camp Community service of Chicago, a number of such dance figures are described. Among them are the following:

Elimination	Arches
Pairing Off	Robbers' Two Step
Unlucky Numbers	Salute
Statues	Waltz Relay
Weaving	Grab
Property	Accumulation
Lucky Circles	Paul Jones
Circles	Patriotic Figure

Games

An evening of games can be made very attractive to young people and adults. Very often when people who do not know each other begin to play games together there is at first much of shyness and self-consciousness to be eliminated. This will be accomplished most easily by selecting games which call for quick activity and initiative on the part of all the players. For example, such games as *Poison*, *Couple Tag*, *Going to Jerusalem*, *Slap Jack in Couples*, *Cats and Rats*, *Dodge Ball*, *Singing Proverbs*, *Black and White*, *Hands Up*, *Two Deep* and the like, are better for the purpose than those in which one player is made conspicuous as in *Orchestra*, *Beast Bird or Fish*, and *Rhymes*. Since a very important purpose of games lies in the coordination of groups which they can bring about, it is unwise in a mixed gathering to choose games which use part of the players for the entertainment of others, or which introduce the kind of horse-play which makes one player the butt of the joke.

Some of the games described in *Games and Dance Figures* are the following:

Jacob and Rachel	Robbers
Save a Friend Tag	Hands Up
Simon Says	Parcel Post
Orchestra	Spell Down
Buzz	Twenty Questions
Two Deep	Stiff Legged Tag
Going to Jerusalem	Comic Tag
Slap Tag	

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There are in addition a number of relays and games which can be made to contribute to a successful evening of games. Among these are *Eat a Cracker Relay*, *Weavers' Relay*, *Drive the Pig to Market*, *Peanut Relay* and *Shuttle Relay*.

In *Community Recreation*, published by the National War Work Council of the Young Men's Christian Association, 347 Madison Avenue, New York, will be found descriptions of a number of stunts which might be used to great advantage at a social gathering. *Icebreakers* by Edna Geister, is also a very suggestive book.

Church Entertainments

Many of the social activities of a community center around the socials and entertainments given by churches. In this connection the following suggestions prepared by Miss Constance D'Arcy Mackay will be of interest. These suggestions may be adapted for use at social centers and other meeting places.

For church entertainments a definite program is essential. Nothing should be left to chance. There should be no pauses with people standing about not knowing what to do. Each week there should be something different. One week there may be games; the next a "parlor track meet," the next, a musical and dramatic program and the next, a "fad party."

Books containing helpful suggestions for church entertainment are the following—*Ice Breakers* by Edna Geister, published by the Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Ave., New York City, price \$1.00. *Social Activities for Men and Boys* by Albert M. Chesley, published by the Association Press, 124 East 28th Street, New York City, price \$1.00. *Social Evenings* by Amos R. Wells, published by the Christian Endeavor Society, Chicago, Ill., price \$.25. (This is an excellent little book.) *Neighborhood Entertainments* by Renee B. Stern, Sturgis & Walton Co., 37 East 27th Street, price \$.75. This is a book primarily intended for rural communities.

Special holidays, such as Valentine's Day and Washington's birthday should always be taken advantage of in church entertainments. Planning a definite entertainment always brings out ideas. Shadowgraphs will be found immensely entertaining, if worked up beforehand with two or three rehearsals. There is a very funny shadowgraph called the *Ballad of Mary Jane*, which can be found in the *St. Nicholas Book of Plays and Operettas* published by the Century Co., of New York City at \$1.00, or

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perhaps this book may be found in the town library. While primarily intended for young people, the *Ballad of Mary Jane* is so distinctly funny that it has amused adult audiences all over the country. It is also valuable because it gives illustrations of how shadowgraphs are arranged, so that anyone can manage them. Two songs that would make entertaining shadowgraphs are *Clementine* and the *Bold Fisherman* which may be found in any collection of college songs. Parlor magic is always effective and always enjoyed.

A Parlor Field Day, as described on page 87 of *Social Activities for Men and Boys* is excellent for an evening's entertainment. Another good idea is a Fad Social, as described on page 59 of *Social Evenings*. Still another idea that is new and interesting is an Open Road Evening. Decorate the parish house with tree branches to give an outdoor look. Have a gypsy camp with fortune telling, palm reading. Have gypsy fiddlers and songs of the Open Road. Have an improvised "camp fire," with all lights out. Have singing around the camp fire. Serve coffee from a three-legged gypsy pot swung over the fire. Have apples and sandwiches served by gypsy girls.

Still another suggestion for a game called *The Road to Berlin* has been sent out by War Camp Community Service in its bulletin *An Old English Christmas Revel for Use in Soldiers' Clubs*. This Revel can be used by churches as well as clubs.

Folk dancing both in France and in England has been found to be an excellent form of entertainment, because the group work it contains keeps men from being self conscious while they are learning the steps. *The Morris Dance Book*, edited by Josephine Brower can be had from Novello & Co., No. 2 West 45th St., New York City. Two good books on *Folk Dances* and *Singing Games* by Elizabeth Burchenal and *Folk Dances of Denmark* by Elizabeth Burchenal, are both published by G. Schirmer, No. 7 East 43rd Street, New York City.

Among the one-act plays which can be given in parish houses, all of which can be obtained from Samuel French, 28 West 38th St., New York City at \$.25 each, are the following: *Jimmy* by A. Patrick, Jr.—two men. *Peace Manoeuvres* by Richard Harding Davis—a military play, three males, one female. *The Zone Police* by Richard Harding Davis—a thrilling military play,—four males. *Food* by William C. DeMille—two males, one female. This is a satire on the high cost of living. *It Behooves Us*,

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a comedy of Hooverization,—two males, two females. *The Flower of Yeddo*,—a Japanese play easily given by one male, five females, or could be acted by a cast of all girls. *The Burglar* by Margaret Cameron is a highly amusing play for five girls. *The Kleptomaniac* is a splendid farce by Margaret Cameron for seven girls.

In France and England an immensely popular way of entertaining men and girls has been found in what is called a musical story. Such a story is given here.

A MUSICAL STORY

For this entertainment all that is needed is a piano and pianist, and sufficient cards and pencils. Have the pianist state that he is going to tell a little romance, and that when there is a break in the story the few chords he will play will provide the cue. Any man who wants this cue repeated must call out "en-core," and it will be played a second time. The men and girls work in couples. When the lists are finished every man must change lists for the purpose of checking up the corrected replies to the numbered questions. Too much of any one tune must not be played. People must not be allowed to guess too easily. Here is the story:

I once knew a young fellow, such a nice chap. Let me see, what was his name? Oh, yes! (Plays three chords of *Robin Adair*.) and he had a nice girl. Her name was (plays *Katie, Beautiful Katie*.) They had known each other for years and met (plays *Comin' through the Rye*). She said, "For you I will leave (plays *My Old Kentucky Home*)." So they got married and the bridesmaid's name was (*Annie Laurie*.) and the nicest part of her costume was (*Oh, Dem Golden Slippers*.) She wore a green dress because she loved (*The Wearin' of the Green*.) After the wedding the bride said ("*Oh Boy, Oh Joy, Where Do We Go from Here*)." For their honeymoon they went (*Marching through Georgia*). Then Robin went (*Over There*.) Going over he was (*Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep*.) while she watched the papers every day to see what would happen (*When Pershing's Men March into Picardy*.) Before he left Robin said to his wife ("*Keep the Home Fires Burning*.) I will soon be back when we have wound up the (*Watch on the Rhine*.)" He had a great friend in the same platoon named (*Private Michael Cassidy*.) They both talked

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every night about the (*Old Folks at Home.*) (*Private Michael Cassidy*) also had a sweetheart. Her name was *Kathleen Mavourneen*) but he called her his (*Wild Irish Rose.*) He said he wanted to see her but it was (*A Long, Long Way to Tipperary*) and he could not go there for the week-end but some day he said he hoped again to be (*Where the River Shannon Flows.*) Private Michael Cassidy was very sentimental and would often have (*Just a Song at Twilight.*) When Robin's wife wrote to him she said "(*My Bonny Lies over the Ocean,*)" and when he wrote her, he said "(*There's a Long, Long Trail.*)" Finally the Americans got to the (*Beautiful Blue Danube*) and conquered (*Fritzie Boy.*) Then Robin returned to (*Home, Sweet Home*) and his country (*America.*)

In the back of such magazines as *The Ladies' Home Journal*, *The Delineator*, *The Woman's Home Companion*, there are always good ideas for entertainments. Entertainment Editors will often supply ideas on request.

Social Center Activities

Much might be said about the activities for adults which are conducted at neighborhood recreation centers and which have received

great impetus during the past few years. Some of the activities which may advantageously be conducted at school centers or other neighborhood meeting places are the following:

Forums	Masques
Public Discussions	Minstrels
Banquets	Amateur Dramatics
Amateur Nights	Monologues
Cantatas	Motion Picture Shows
Choral Singing	Pantomime
Concerts	Readings
Musicals	Storytelling
Operettas	Sleight of Hand
Dialogues	Tableaux
Exhibition Drills	Vaudeville
Impersonations	Mock Trials
Legerdemain	Spelling Bees

On the side of the more active physical exercise are apparatus work, athletic contests, folk dancing, bag punching, basket ball, ball games of various kinds, fencing, drills, athletic games, gymnastic bouts, and singing games. In addition, social center activities may well include handcraft work, which is recreation to

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many adults, and participate in such organizing as mother's clubs, dramatic and musical associations and classes in art.

In an effort to make the neighborhood center particularly popular for adults, the Playground Department of Berkeley, California, arranged a series of "Phun Nites" or "Nights That Are Different" for the special benefit of fathers and mothers. Games of various kinds are played and novel forms of entertainment are introduced. The social centers must take into account the needs of the adults among the foreign born population by providing recreational activities and opportunities through which the foreign born may mingle with American born citizens that there may be an interchange of ideas and ideals. Dramatic clubs and such occasions as Chester's Day of Nations when the foreign born citizens were welcomed by Chester and in native costumes sang their national songs and danced the dances of their people, are very valuable factors in the process of citizenship making. Similarly the adults of the colored race should be provided with separate social centers; playgrounds should be set aside for their use and there should be developed such phases of community recreation as community singing and choruses. The activities which can be developed in connection with neighborhood recreation centers are unlimited in their scope and may be made as broad and comprehensive as the leadership available permits of developing.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Outdoor activities are of great importance because they more than any other group of activities lead out into the community and form in a large part the nucleus of the community activities which are of such vital importance in creating and conserving the community spirit without which there can be no real democracy.

Playground Activities

The normal development of recreation for adults should come through existing facilities.

Where there are playgrounds, they should be utilized for adults as well as for children. The greatest use of playground facilities by adults will naturally come at night when the great majority of grownups have their free time. Among the playground activities which may be developed are Twilight Baseball Teams, and for older boys and girls and for men and women, volley ball, basket ball, outdoor baseball, and similar

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games. Quoits, croquet, and folk dancing are also feasible in the playground activities for adults.

Vacant Lot Play Where there are no playgrounds, or where the playground space is not adequate or advantageously located, vacant lot play should be developed and park space utilized for the purpose of recreation for the adults. A device which has been worked out in Chester, Pa., by Community Service for carrying the equipment from place to place, consists of a small box resembling a carpenter's tool chest in which are compactly arranged one set of baskets for basket ball, one volley ball outfit, one set of quoits, one medicine ball, and one playground baseball outfit. The total cost of the box is \$25.00.

It has been found that from seventy-five to one hundred people can be kept busy at one time with games if an equipment of this sort and leadership are provided.

Use of All Available Facilities In addition to playground and vacant lots, other facilities which are found in many communities, and which should be used for adult recreation, are athletic fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and municipal bath beaches. All these facilities provide splendid opportunity for adults if steps are taken to secure their use under some organized plan which will insure their functioning to the best advantage.

Hikes, Walking Trips and Camping Hikes out in the country with supper cooked over a camp fire are a form of recreation which young people and older members of the community as well will find very enjoyable. Beach parties, too, with singing around the fire and roasting of marshmallows, have their appeal. Organized Saturday walks have for years been successfully carried out in Chicago and Boston for adults, and men and women of all ages take part in them.

An occasional week-end camping trip for adults is a form of outdoor recreation which has its charm. The Playground Department of Los Angeles, California, which conducts a summer camp, reserves a week or two during the season for the exclusive use of the camp by young married couples.

Picnics and Outdoor Parties The community or neighborhood picnic is coming to assume importance as a recreational feature of neighborhood life. For such picnics a program is arranged including field and track events, base-

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ball games, outdoor games of various kinds, contests and similar events. The Public Recreation Department of Hartford four years ago organized an old folks' picnic and play day for which only people over sixty years of age were eligible. This proved so successful that there developed from it an elderly folks' recreation club which conducts many entertainments and other recreational activities.

Play Days

Every community should have the kind of play day which Battle Creek organized for the purpose of reminding adults who had forgotten how to play that they were taking life too seriously. The movement was started by the business men of the city who first conducted a publicity campaign to the effect that the men and women were missing a lot of fun. When this had had its effect, they organized a play festival entertaining over six thousand children whose games and activities they shared. During the year this group conducted such community activities as dances, roller skating, community suppers, hallowe'en parties, community Christmas trees and other festivities.

Block Parties and Dances

The block party, which during the past year has gained in popularity, is a community entertainment intended primarily to bring the residents of a particular neighborhood into closer touch with one another. Such a party in a large community is usually confined to a single block, which, by special permission from the city officials, is closed to traffic for the evening and becomes the center of a gay carnival fete or dance attended by all the people in the immediate vicinity. Community singing may well be made a feature of the party. The street should be well lighted for the occasion and the houses prettily decorated. The splendid spirit of sociability among neighbors who do not know each other which such parties create makes them of value.

In one of the southern cities weekly community garden parties, arranged in much the same way as block parties, were given with great success during the war as a means of entertaining the service men. So popular did these become that often as many as 4,500 civilians attended. A park centrally located was set apart by the City Park Commission, and the streets surrounding the park were roped off. Members of women's clubs and other organizations acted as hostesses and refreshments were served. A band was employed to play throughout the evening

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and the people attending danced and played games in groups. A special section was set apart for the children who came with their parents where play leaders led the little ones in games. These community garden parties with their wholesome atmosphere of hospitality and good cheer, resembled more than anything else typical county picnics and street fairs. Such parties might well be held for civilians alone and made a very popular phase of recreation for adults.

Other Outdoor Activities

Among other outdoor activities for adults might be hayrick rides, lawn parties, water sports and tub races and tournaments. A revival of the old Southern tournament in which a queen of love and beauty is chosen and crowned is suggested as a possible form of recreation.

COMMUNITY RECREATION FOR ADULTS

Recreational activities which bring people together as members of the community and which help to establish the group and personal relationships so desirable, have come to have a new meaning because of the importance which community organization and community service have come to assume as an outgrowth of the community consciousness and appreciation of team play aroused during the war. Among these activities are the following:

Community Singing

(This perhaps more than any other one community activity brings all together in a spirit of friendliness and good will.)

Band Concerts

Community Concerts and Musicals

Community Operettas

Community Organ Recitals

Community Theatre and Drama

Community Lectures and Entertainments

Pageants

(These are important because the time element involved in preparing for them permits people who have never known each other before to come together and become acquainted. Moreover, the active participation in pageants furnishes a great deal of pleasure.)

Special Holiday Celebrations

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Community Christmas Trees

Community Days

On the so-called "Community Day" the adults of a neighborhood or community come together to engage in some such community project as the clearing of a lot for a playground, the installation of apparatus, and possibly the building of the shelter house. There is a picnic luncheon, and games and social features of various kinds are enjoyed. A general "get acquainted spirit" which is exceedingly valuable, is created by community days.

The activities mentioned are particularly well adapted to the needs of adult recreation permitting as most of them do of the expression of the art and cultural interests which enrich the life of the adult. (Definite suggestions regarding pageants and special celebrations may be secured from the Playground and Recreation Association of America).

The movement which has spread so rapidly through the country for the organization of community buildings as soldier and sailor memorials will, it is felt, do much to further the interest of adult recreation by providing a well equipped place for conducting activities. Many of these buildings will contain not only auditoriums and gymnasiums and, in some instances, swimming pools, but will provide meeting places for various organizations and recreation facilities of all kinds.

Recreation for Adults in Rural Communities

Adequate attention has never been paid to the needs of the adult residents of rural communities for wholesome recreation, though no where, it is generally felt, is there so definite or so great a need.

At the National Country Life Conference, held in Baltimore, in January, 1919, great emphasis was laid on the necessity for developing forms of recreation based on cooperation and collective enjoyment; that is, on a community basis which will bring all elements and sections into acquaintanceship and common enjoyment through inter-neighborhood and inter-community sociable activities. The following forms of recreation were selected as suitable for rural communities:

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1. Games for the home group
2. Games for the small neighborhood groups
3. Games for old and young
4. Games for groups of both sex
5. Community singing
6. Home singing
7. Recreation for house parties
8. Games suitable for picnics
9. Suitable plays (drama)
10. Masques
11. Pageants
12. Contests for special occasions

Country Plays The drama is coming to play an important part in rural recreation. Such experiments as the Little Country Theatre, which has been worked out in North Dakota under Professor Arvold, and which gives opportunity for the production of plays written by the people themselves as well as for standard plays, should become widespread.*

Field Days and Play Festivals A very important recreational feature for development in rural districts is the field day or play festival. A program for field day should include baseball games, athletic contests, tournaments, croquet, quoits, archery, and such games as follows:

Baseball

Indoor Baseball

Tether ball

Tennis

Playground Ball

There should be races of all kinds such as centipede, chariot, skin-the-snake, and tunnel races.

Among the games suggested by Mr. George E. Schlafer of the Extension Division of Indiana University, are the following:

Hill Dill

Run and Pass Relay

Circle Blind Man's Buff

Club Grab

Ditch Tag

Jump The Pole

Black and White

Dodge Ball

Shuttle Relay

All Up Indian Club Race

Slap The Second

Stride Relay

Mr. Schlafer suggests that circus stunts be introduced at the close of the games. A description of a number of stunts and of the games suggested are to be found in Part III *Peace Celebrations*

*A list of plays for rural communities was published in THE PLAYGROUND for November.

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for a *Better Democracy*, published by the Extension Division of the Indiana University.

Community Picnics Community picnics should be organized along the same lines as field plays and play festivals with field sports and games—quoits, pitching contests, and events of various kinds.

Other events along the same lines are Pumpkin Pie Day when pumpkin pies are served free and Watermelon Day, a similar kind of celebration.

Band Carnivals Bands from nearby communities are invited to compete in the carnival and prizes are given the bands chosen as best by the judges.

County and Street Fairs County fairs with exhibits of produce of various kinds are coming more and more to incorporate amusement features in which people coming to the fair will participate.

Street fairs have always been popular in rural districts. Great care should be exercised in seeing to it that the vaudeville acts and other features introduced are the best available. An imitation street fair is a popular form of recreation in a rural community. All the features of the regular fair, such as fortune telling, clowns, vaudeville shows and refreshment stands, should be found here.

Old Home Week Old Home Week is one kind of celebration which every community ought to feature every few years. The celebration should include public receptions to returning members of the community, a dance, a baseball game between present and former local players, home talent plays, pageants, and concerts.

Fall Festivals A Fall Festival when the crops are all harvested could take the form which seems the most popular—either a public picnic, a barbecue, or a clam bake.

Social Center Activities at Schools Much of the social life for adults in rural communities should center about the schools. Many of the activities in operation at community centers in larger cities can be used here—Amateur circuses, mock trials, amateur theatricals, old time spelling bees, recitations, concerts, and similar features, all have their place at the rural school center.

The churches in rural districts have much to contribute to the social life of the community. Socials with as varied a program as

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can be devised, suppers, turkey dinners, and neighborhood gatherings of various kinds should be promoted through the churches.

It is important, too, that home and backyard play be developed in rural districts. A tennis court, however rough, croquet, and other game equipment, will provide opportunity

The need of adults for self-expression through recreation is a fundamental need. If it is denied, if the instinct is defeated, not only the individual but the community and the nation will be the losers through thwarted personality and undeveloped powers.

Playground Work in the Southwest

NELLIE BALLOU, Newark, Ohio

Whether Juanito would have been a dull boy without organized play in our little southwestern mining town is doubtful. From all that I have seen and heard, probably not. However, he has had a face less battered and feelings less bruised during the past year than ever before, they say, and a lot more fun, as he will tell you himself.

When, at the beginning of the past school year, I looked over those five hundred New Mexicans, I thought I had found a melting pot rivalling our great cities. A part of the children were, as they designate themselves in distinction to those who have been kissed for generations by a burning sun—white. Then there were those of Spanish descent; others whose ancestors had tenanted the wigwam; negroes; and all imaginable mixtures and compilations of these.

Of our playground in years before, I know little, nor did I seek to know. In the first days some of the "older and wiser" of the town encouraged me with hints of race-fights, of "ugly" big boys; but as I was a beginner not only in my special work, but in any kind of teaching, I considered myself not yet in the cautious angel class, and rushed in guided by blind luck. A certain defiant sulkiness of the brown children in times of stress; a tendency on the part of "white" boys to appeal to the favor and protecting skirts of the teacher at the same moments; these were the only indications of an unfortunate and unfair

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condition in a part of the country where the presence of mixed nationalities makes problems to meet.

As in the case with most problems, ours were not so horny met face to face as they seemed afar off. We employed the famous old magic that has never yet failed to work—we kept our small friends happily busy, and in the fun of play they hardly missed the excitement of the old free-for-all-scrap in which the glory of combat was all for a few leaders and not for the little fellows who kicked shins and tore shirts for them. Sometimes a tough little veteran of twelve years will sigh as he remembers a particularly good fight of the past, as some of our boys of the Civil War did until there was something newer to hear; but I think they are glad their war is over. It is worth a year at hard labor to have little Eloy confide during a pause in the play, "We never did have good times like these before."

As to the school itself, conditions are nearly ideal. Our superintendent, Miss Lela A. Manville, in addition to unusual experience, training and good judgment, is ahead of her time in training the children to meet the conditions of the place in which most of them will spend their lives, so that, with their few resources, they may make the most of the possibilities that those lives offer. A sympathetic and generous school board furnishes encouragement and all the equipment needed.

We have no gymnasium, but two halls of the larger school building are available for drill, dancing, and indoor classes. On the large sunny grounds, under the blue sky of New Mexico, we have a real paradise for the spirit of play.

All through the grades the children are so mixed in age that the formulated plans I had made for graded work were of no use except for starting fires on cool mornings. In the fourth grade, for instance, side by side with bright infants of nine, stand great hulking fellows of sixteen—ranch boys whose schooling has been delayed, and Mexicans boys who had never been urged sufficiently to come to school, until the regime of Attendance Officer Jack Fleming with his eagle eye and his swift black horse, who can clear the paths and by-paths of the devotees of Hookey in a few hours.

It was a motley mob that faced me in each class the first day, from the primary class of the Lincoln School, who I discovered later understood hardly a word of English, but who

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followed the movements of my body perfectly; to the big boys of the upper grades, who responded cheerfully, too, I believe now from the novelty of the thing and their willingness to try anything once. That night I tore up my plans, lifted my eyes to the biggest mountain, and henceforth did all that was unscientific and effective for those true-eyed dears of the rolling greyland.

One of the greatest pleasures that the work gave the children was the opportunity to play with the balls that the school gave us. I have often seen a little fellow pick up a ball dropped by another, and hold it lovingly, stroking and patting it. As long as there were plenty of balls on the grounds at recesses and in the periods before school morning and noon, no one had to watch with an eye to possible "riots." The youngsters kept good natured free play going constantly. Many people came and stood looking on just to see the children enjoy themselves.

As my classes were large, I found it best, beginning with the third grade, to teach the boys and girls separately, even though for out-of-door work I used many of the same games for both. This made more classes in a rather heavy schedule, but the work was more than repaid by the results obtained.

The children of the southwest, the Mexicans especially, mature rapidly, and become self-conscious at a very early age. They are sensitive to remarks and even to looks, and being unusually old for their grades, do much better in classes of all girls or all boys.

The Mexican girls are especially good in dancing. For regular folk dancing the majority of them do not care especially so during the latter part of the year I started them in simple interpretations of music which they selected as "pretty and alive." Some of them did very creditable work along this line, although it was new, even in idea, to them. At times I was unhappy, thinking that they were stronger in imitation than self-expression. But are we not all so? What did you yourself have to express when you were in the fourth grade learning long division?

The little *senoritas* are full of fun and energy, and star well in running and in all kinds of active games.

Their brothers are intensely athletic. If they put the same force spent in playing into other channels as they grow

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older you will hear of them later on. They made splendid soldiers over there, and though in the smaller matters of living they may take the easy, unhurried way, in greater issues their souls burn like their dark flashing eyes, and they fear nothing.

Of the dearness and queerness of our little folks, I could tell for a year and a day. Almost without exception they are cheerful and sunny. A strong sense of kinship exists noticeably, as often there are four or five children of one family in the school, all bearing a strong resemblance and affection to one another.

In our midst was an organization known as the Mexican Gang, which held meetings and celebrated great days like Hallowe'en and righted wrongs done to its members, en masse. The pillars of this society were ardent supporters of the playground department and among the most alert boys I had. Until recently the state of New Mexico required attendance at school only of those between the ages of six and thirteen, inclusive. The greater part of the boys over the maximum admitted that they came because they had a good time playing. To get it, they swallowed **every day the less palatable morsels** of "the fundamentals."

Boy Scouts in general were not in high favor among the public school boys there, as sometime in the past they seemed to have had an unpleasant experience with some "stuck-up" members who had hurt the feelings of the Spanish-American boys. Unfortunately the town had lost its scout leader, a splendid man from all accounts, and one who might have brought real understanding. However, we had a few Scouts in our school, and these were hailed as "real fellows." A new one from the east became very popular in a short time. In the hands of a live, red-blooded man, these boys, brown and white, would be the best scouts that could be found. The untutored children of the mountains and desert are quick to recognize true worth whether it comes to them in robes or in rags.

Our school year was cut short by twelve weeks of enforced vacation during the influenza epidemic; but with none of our little ones missing after the monster's raid, we began again and in the remaining five months accomplished nearly all we had hoped for.

Not only stronger were the children in body and mind, but happier, too. Bitter race feeling had faded away before the

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pride in "our team," "our class," "our school." Fair play was used more and mentioned less. Best of all had grown a sense of dignity and loyalty in those little people that is beautiful to see wherever it is met.

We looked into "problems" only to find just children, and the solution was, as always, only the golden rule of patience and love on the part of both.

Making Them Smile

The Michigan State Industrial Home for girls has undergone an evolution and the force which has played the biggest part in this change has been recreation.

A few months ago the old regime was in order at the Home—enforced silence—no play—nothing but discipline, repression and monotonous, deadening routine. With the appointment of Mrs. Delphine Dodge Ashbaugh, for four years a member of the Detroit Recreation Commission, as chairman of the State Committee governing the work at the Industrial Home, came a change. Mrs. Ashbaugh knew the value of recreation—had seen what it could accomplish. She saw no reason why it should not solve many of the difficulties at the Home. After consultation with the Detroit Recreation Commission, Mrs. Beatrice Hunzicker, one of the Commission's workers, became an employee at the home, and was given the task of working out a program of recreation which would meet the needs of the four hundred girls at the home.

Mrs. Hunzicker, in writing of her work says:

"Two months ago Mrs. Ashbaugh started in to make 400 girls learn how to smile. She succeeded. Then she decided to make them talk, which was not quite so easy, for after years and years of being kept 'on silence,' with a debit hanging over one's head, should one dare so much as to whisper, it is easy to lose all inclination to do so. It was easier still to become an adept in 'underground communication'—a highly developed secret system of sign language which was used in cottage, chapel and school by the girls forbidden to speak. It was not easy to make these girls talk. Nevertheless, it was done.

"Next, Mrs. Ashbaugh thought it was time the girls learned

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how to play, their recreation in the old order of things consisting of the singing of dismal hymns, herded on the cottage porch. At that time I was granted a year's leave of absence from the City of Detroit and came to the State Industrial Home for Girls to teach them to play.

"Since I am safely over it, having just had the extreme felicity of seeing two of my girls quarreling bitterly over the respective merits of *Three Deep* and *Squirrel in the Tree*, I do not mind confessing that during the first ten days I considered that the thing asked of me was an absolute impossibility. There was no play in them!

"One by one I introduced to the girls my most fascinating games—games before which Detroit children had gone down like nine pins. They were bored beyond expression when I tried to bribe them with every treasure I had secured through years of playground work. I could have religiously played every game in Bancroft and received nothing in return but expressions of pained surprise!

"Then, one never-to-be-forgotten afternoon, my good angel whispered in my ear, 'Try them with Blue Bell,'—and with that little silly baby ring game, I kindled my first spark of interest. Encouraged and childishly gleeful I set my teeth and vowed under my breath that those girls should learn to love games like other little girls more fortunate than they, even though I died in my efforts to teach them. And they did!

"Looking back upon my first month's play, I can rejoice over the results achieved. Four hundred girls between the hours of 3:30 and 8:15 tumbled out helter-skelter to meet me—and a game—eager to play, all talking at the same time, all laughing.

"The solemn look has gone, the unhealthy, sneaking underground communication is dying a natural, though somewhat lingering death; sluggishness has disappeared. The garb of the institution has also gone as the girls appear in their neat middy waists and comfortable gymnasium bloomers, just happy little school girls.

"Play, setting up exercises and deep breathing are doing wonders; love and sympathy are doing even greater.

"The work is carried on according to the recess plan so successfully conducted by the Recreation Commission in the Detroit schools. There are eight cottages overlooking a beautiful

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campus; the girls living in each cottage in turn are taken out for a half hour's organized play. The only attempt at mass work which is being made at the present, comes when the 400 girls meet around the band stand for community singing. Later on we hope to have all the girls out for organized recreation but the time for that is not yet ripe.

The girls had their first program on Memorial Day, when after going to see *Daddy Long Legs* they gathered on the campus for community singing and folk dancing. They are planning a pageant and are humming away like a hive of busy bees, discussing costumes and dances.

"Each cottage has its recreation captain and lieutenants who have responded splendidly to the new responsibility put upon their shoulders. These 'powers' are organized into a junior council which meets every week to discuss its plans and solve its problems.

"The way these little people agonize over any breach of discipline which has hurt the honor of their school—it is not a prison any more—hints at the big things they could do, hints at the possibilities locked up in hearts which only a few weeks ago were so bitter and ugly, repressed and loveless.

"I am keenly alive to my responsibility. The games I teach are a means toward an end. If only I could teach these girls as we romp together, to play the Big Game of Life; to know and observe the rules; to be square; to sink all thought of themselves and remember only the team; not to cry when they get hurt in the Big Game, as they surely must; to play to win, but if they must lose, to be game losers—if I could teach them that, I shall feel that my year's work here has counted for something in the eyes of the Great Referee."

Outdoor Industrial Theatres

CONSTANCE D'ARCY MACKAY

Community Service (Incorporated)

What shall we do to plan recreation for our foreign born workers in great industrial cities, when these workers cannot spare the money to go to any places of amusement other than the movies; when they are too tired after their day's work to walk from the district where they live to places where other amuse-

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ments might be had? Often the expenditure of carfare to and from the place of amusement is too heavy an expense to be considered, especially when there is a family of five or six. What shall we do with masses of people who speak very little English, yet who are in need of social participation? We cannot give one pageant after another, for pageantry is expensive and takes a great deal of time to prepare. Until Community Houses are built, there are very few auditoriums suitable for summer recreation. And lacking these Community House auditoriums, other auditoriums are expensive to rent. Moreover, they do not represent a *permanent gathering-place*. When the warm months begin, people want to be outdoors. From the first of April to the first of October the spirit is irked at being enclosed within four walls—particularly when a worker has spent his entire day beneath a roof. What is going to bring the people together in the open and interest them and hold them—men, women and children alike? More and more people are asking themselves these questions.

Personally, I have always believed that the answer lay in an Outdoor Industrial Theatre* situated in the heart of each foreign section. And now with this resurgence of community drama in our midst, it seems as if this were the answer as to what would bring people together, develop equally their folk arts and their sense of Americanism; giving them a sense of participation and a sense of beauty.

*The need for such a theatre and the vision of what it could do occurred to me during the production of a patriotic pageant in a large city where many groups of working people participated. Each episode of the pageant was rehearsed in a different district. When the pageant was finally produced, all these districts came together for the first time in a beautiful city park. Of course, pageants like this have since been given very often. There is nothing new about it. But what was new in this particular case was the fact that after the pageant was over, the pageant-players later acted their individual episodes over again in their own districts. In one case they acted a pageant episode in a factory yard, with the wall of the factory for a background. In another case, they acted a pageant episode in a paved court, surrounded by tenements. Still another episode was repeated in a vacant lot with a few sparse trees stuck into the ground for a background. Pathetic efforts, all of them—yet filled with the desire to bring the pageant to the people of the district who had not been able to afford the time or carfare to go to the park performances. This meant that many a mother who could not leave her toddling children or could not take them with her, had a chance to glimpse at least a little of what the pageant was like. This proved that plays or festivals acted out-of-doors right in the heart of the foreign districts were sadly needed. For where is there a greater lack of beauty than in these very districts? Eyes must hunger for beauty in these districts and hunger in vain.

OUTDOOR INDUSTRIAL THEATRES

The very inexpensiveness of such a theatre is one of its strongest assets. Such a theatre as I have in mind could be built for \$175, though a theatre costing \$350 would be infinitely better. Now \$175 or \$350 put into a pageant does not go very far; but put into an outdoor theatre, it becomes a permanent acquisition which can be used for months at a time; and, kept in repair, can be useful for years. People can be made to feel that this theatre is theirs; can take an active interest in it. It will be to them a source of interest and pride.

The scheme of the theatre is exceedingly simple. All that is needed for it is a semicircle of six Greek wooden pillars painted white, with a white coping. These pillars will stand on a white platform raised four feet from the ground.* This will be led up to by a flight of wide, shallow steps. These steps can be used for small processional effects, or can serve as a fore-stage such as Granville Barker's. On each side of the coping are two invisible rows of white curtain rods. One row runs along the *inside* of the coping, and the other row runs along the *outside* of the coping. To those are attached curtains to fill in to give a substantial background without destroying the Greek effect. They are deemed necessary because in most industrial districts ugly backgrounds have to be contended with. It will not do to have a Greek frame for a theatre and then glimpse through the pillars such arid and ugly scenery as is made by shabby, untidy back-yards or straggling fences or company houses, or even the red brick walls of some industrial plant.

This Greek theatre can be set up in any vacant lot, even in the yard of a plant if the owners of the plant will allow it.

The initial cost of this theatre stated here does not include the cost of seating the audience. In choosing the site for this theatre, a space for seating the audience must be taken into account. Either they can sit on sloping ground; or if the theatre is raised, they may sit on flat ground with rugs and cushions, and look up toward it. On sloping ground, it may be possible to arrange wooden benches. Of course the most ideal plan of all is to put a set of "bleachers" permanently in place. This theatre is intended to be free.

Both bleachers and theatre will have to be adequately lighted for night performances, so a small electric lighting system will

*Of course a grassy stage is best, but this cannot be had in the centre of Industrial Districts.

OUTDOOR INDUSTRIAL THEATRES

have to be installed for the theatre. There will have to be lights at the entrance to the vacant lot or grandstand. If possible, the theatre switchboard should control both the light of the stage and the grandstand; so that when a performance begins and the people are seated, the lights can be dimmed a little on the bleachers but focused sharply on the stage.

Of course the size of the theatre and the size of the bleachers will be determined by the ground available. The theatre must have a platform measuring not less than twenty-four feet wide and twenty-five feet deep. The space included in these measurements must be entirely free from all obstruction. The stage must be provided with an electric feed-wire carrying at least 110 volts, capable of being attached and of having either direct or indirect current. The curtains for this theatre should be made of heavy canton flannel. Lead weighting which can be purchased for 10¢ a yard should be run into the hems of the curtains in order to have them hang properly if a breeze is blowing. By having the white curtain rings referred to, these curtains can be very quickly and easily hung up and taken down after every performance. When only one set of curtains can be afforded, forest green curtains are best to begin with. By standing pine trees against them, a forest effect can be given. In fact the effects which can be arranged very simply and inexpensively are simply endless. Here is where the folk arts and ingenuity of the foreign citizens should be emphasized.

Of course it goes without saying that the usual painted scenery cannot be used with this theatre. The appeal must be entirely to the imagination. A Greek bench; a Greek table, and a throne chair will be necessary requisites for the different scenes, and the foreign citizens can make them themselves. It should also be the work of the foreign citizens to keep the theatre in good repair.

In districts where it is impossible to afford even the pillars, the platform already described might be used, approached by the same shallow steps. Then for this platform, have a set of high, folding screens—resembling Japanese screens—on wooden frames over which burlap or denim is stretched and firmly tacked. Possibly the center panel of each of these screens will have to have a stanchion behind it to keep it in place in case of windy weather. This idea is, of course, a simplification of the very wonderful portable theatre devised by Mr. Stuart Walker.

OUTDOOR INDUSTRIAL THEATRES

The performances must be well planned and outlined in advance. One performance may consist of singing; another of a play or pantomime; another of folk dancing. Boy Scouts might give a program one week. For this, if the Greek Theatre were used, curtains should be hung *outside* the pillars thus making a dark green cyclorama. They might do some drills and have a camp fire of red electric bulbs and faggots, some songs, and perhaps the Scout Master would tell the assembled audience some simple, easily understood Indian stories. Another week, the same type of program might be given by the Camp Fire Girls. Still another idea is to have a folk play acted in English. Folk dancing and folk songs might, as has been suggested, form the nucleus of another evening.

And now we come to the most important point of all and that is *this theatre's practicability for Americanization*. Where the audience speaks very little English, or no English, a play might be acted first in pantomime; then this pantomime could be repeated with very simple words. Such a pantomime as *Golden Hair and the Three Bears* might lend itself to this with its repetition of, "Who has been eating from my little bowl?" "Who has been sleeping in my little bed?"

Still another way to work for Americanization would be to have something acted on the stage in English with the audience making responses* in English to it now and again, thus feeling themselves part of the whole performance. Never mind if they have to be taught to shout these responses all together. To get this feeling of together-ness is one of the main things. Thus English will be taught to them through plays. It will also be possible to teach them songs in this manner. Have a chorus grouped on the steps and platform of this theatre sing the first verse and have the audience sing the second verse or the chorus in English.

It will also be possible to have concerts to which many immigrants can bring their strange, old world instruments; but in the main, care must be taken not to stress the folk side of their art too much. They need to have the American side stressed also.

School children acting in this theatre will draw the fathers and mothers to witness their performances. A little play about

*There is an example of this in *The New Pilgrims*, a patriotic litany published in *Patriotic Drama in Your Town*.

THE ELGIN COMMUNITY HOUSE

the youth of Lincoln might be prepared in one of the neighboring schools and then repeated in the outdoor theatres. If the audience is one that does not speak English the play might be explained in their own language first, and then acted in English afterwards.

In great industrial cities where all the Hungarians live in one section, all the Italians in another, and all the Czecho-Slavs in another, each district might have its own industrial outdoor theatre.

No matter how crude first attempts are, real folk art and Americanization is bound to be the ultimate result of these performances.

The Elgin Community House

In writing of the activities of the Community House, Mr. Karl W. G. Hiller says:

"Our work is an experiment; we always expect a reaction of some sort and it always comes. Many times it assumes entirely unexpected forms and very surprising ones, just as any combination of chemicals might react in an altogether unexpected manner. Many times we drop a given program because the reaction is not what we expected, but we do not consider the experiment a failure. Rather, we try it out in order to find out what it might lead to and even though results were unfavorable, the experiment was a success because of its revelations to us. The great reason why so many communities are really failing is because they are constantly in fear of failure. They want to be so everlastingly sure of success that they never try anything and hence never attain to the very thing of which they desire to be certain.

"For instance, the ever present dance question. We frankly confess it is a problem, but we contend that it has to be reckoned with and will not be disposed of with mere high-sounding phrases. Instead of trying to prohibit it absolutely, we looked for the greatest objections and shaped our course accordingly. We feared that if we closed down on it altogether the dancing element would go and put up a cheap dance hall and we would have the same old trouble.

"When our policy and rules were announced, certain members of a fraternal organization said, 'We are not going to stand for a Sunday School method of telling us what to do. We'll

PROGRESS IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

show them we can dance just as we please without dictation from anybody.' They prevailed on the lodge to install a high-priced piano in their hall with a view to capturing the dancing patronage of the community. They had just one dance in their hall and that was sufficient to prove that the dancers really preferred to take their folks to our building where we had made such attractive provision. We have had no trouble about competition since.

"A still greater surprise awaited us. Under our policy of a family membership a man's wife and daughters have just as much right to bowl and play billiards as he has. They are using that privilege and time and again they have had to coax the young people away from the bowling alley in order to have enough people for dance sets.

"Again we planned a membership campaign and expected a certain foreign neighborhood about ten miles away to come in with us. This was the surprising reaction; our plan was so successful that they wanted to organize one themselves, centering around their church and schoolhouse. As a result of the activities of the two organizations a strip of fine highway between the two neighborhoods was constructed across a sandy waste at an expense of almost \$5000 raised by popular subscription. Was the membership campaign a failure?"

Progress in South Bend, Indiana

The fourth annual report of the Municipal Recreation Committee of South Bend, Indiana, shows a steady growth and development since its organization in 1914.

The work as conducted in South Bend logically falls under three departments—Playgrounds—Production and Conservation and Community Centers. The provision for activities for more than 300,000 people during 1918 is the record of the committee. These people have been affected by one or more of the various lines of work which incorporates social, economic and athletic phases expressed through social centers, playgrounds, a garden department, a conservation department and athletic groups for men, women and boys and girls.

Playgrounds

During 1918 ten playgrounds were opened, the majority of them for three months during the summer under the leadership of nineteen play

PROGRESS IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

directors. At one of the grounds which is open during the entire year, an ice rink and an immense toboggan have made winter sports tremendously popular.

Garden Department

The Garden Department has come to be a very important part of the general program. Beginning with 250 homes entered the first year, 1915, the scope of the work has increased by leaps and bounds until in 1917 there were 5,000 homes enrolled. With this momentum back of it, and with the sentiment created by war conditions, 15,615 homes have been induced to carry out the program outlined by the South Bend War Garden Commission. Fifteen Children's Flower and Vegetable Shows were held in the public schools, and winning exhibitors were permitted to enter the competition conducted by the Garden Department under the auspices of the Interstate Fair Association.

Conservation Department

The development of this department has been in cooperation with the extension division of the United States Department of Agriculture through Purdue University, with the services of a Federal Home Demonstration Agent paid by the government. The Municipal Recreation Committee and the Civic Federation have contributed the \$500 necessary to meet local expenses.

Devised at first to meet a war emergency the work has demonstrated its value as a peace-time necessity. During the past year fifty-three lectures and one hundred thirteen demonstrations have been given by the agent; eighteen community exhibitions have been held and thousands of federal, state and local bulletins distributed.

Community Center Activities

During 1918 South Bend had fifteen organized community centers, the purpose of which is to make it possible for the people of the community to discuss the things which concern their local welfare. These centers have been amalgamated into the Civic Federation which meets once a month in the Recreation Director's office where movements of city wide significance are discussed. The organization has undertaken a number of important movements, among them the dissemination of information with regard to increased food production and conservation; war savings and liberty loan campaigns; a municipal 4th of July celebration, a liberty sing on Thanksgiving day and a Municipal Christmas festival.

Ten of the community centers have enlarged their work to include such social activities as gymnasium work, folk dancing, indoor baseball, basket ball, volley ball. In 1918 there were forty groups

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

meeting once a week, organized as adult men, senior and junior boys, adult women, senior and junior girls. The Municipal Recreation Committee provides for each building where there is a sufficient demand, a social secretary who has general charge of the work and a corps of directors qualified to conduct the activities.

The total expenditure for the year was \$12,141.22.

The Cost

For this amount over 300,000 people have had the opportunity for wholesome recreation and self expression on a democratic community wide basis.

A Message to Parents

The Board of Playground Commissioners at San Diego issues a paper known as *The Playground Herald*, which, in an opening editorial, sounds a note which should reach the ears of every parent in every community where playgrounds are in operation. The editorial reads as follows:

SEEING THE PLAYGROUND RIGHT

Something may be the matter with your eyesight, and in consequence you may see the playgrounds only in the light of places of amusement for children. You may think of them only as a place to send the children to get rid of them when you go down town or want to have a quiet time by yourself, or want to go to a party. Of course, the playgrounds do serve such purposes but in reality that is not what they are. They are something more than amusement centers. In reality they are great centers of development; development of the physical, mental and spiritual man and woman. They aim good at physiques, and the games are for that purpose. They strive for a quick, alert and honest mind. They develop the sense of fair play, honesty in the game and appreciation of the rights of the other fellow. While they are seemingly amusing through games and play, they are in reality training character, building good citizenship, breaking down prejudice of class for class and developing democracy. They make boys and girls and men and women loyal to their flag and country and therefore are a constructive force for the training of patriots. Because of this it isn't true that "anyone" can be a playground worker. It takes trained men and women to do this work right—men and women of good character, of high ideals, of an appreciation of what citizenship means. These workers need the confidence of the children and the parents, and they deserve it. They are cooperators

LESSONS FROM FRANCE

with fathers and mothers in making good citizens out of just ordinary boys and girls. Get the squint out of your eyes so you may see this work in the right light.

WHO OWNS THEM?

Who owns the playgrounds? *You* do. They are yours. Do you think of them in these terms? When you pass one of them and see the boys and girls, and often the men and women, engaged in their games and sports, do you say to yourself or those with you, "That is *my* playground." You ought to say so. For it is yours. Mr. and Mrs. Citizen, the playgrounds are yours. They don't belong to the Council or the Mayor, nor yet the Board of Playground Commissioners. These people are only your servants to see that the necessary money is provided to run the playgrounds and that they are run in the very best manner possible. No, the playgrounds belong to you. Consequently you are deeply interested in getting the best results from them. You want them kept nicely. You want them well patronized. You want clean sport and fair play. You want your neighbor to have just as good a time there as you have, for the playground is his also. You are joint owners of it. You can say to your neighbor, "Come on, Smith, let's go over to *our* playground and have a game of tennis." That's right; it belongs to both of you! Of course, since you own them you want them to be the "best ever." And, owning the playgrounds, you are anxious to do all you can to make them the "best ever." Only by this feeling of ownership can the people of a city get the best results out of their playgrounds. Think of them in this way, "I own them"; "They are mine"; "I'm responsible for them"; then they will become the best playgrounds possible.

Lessons from France

To occupy the leisure time of men; to improve the physical efficiency of great bodies of men; to change the morale of a group—these are the three things which Dr. J. H. McCurdy, after his experience in France as director of athletics for the Y. M. C. A., feels to be of the utmost importance. And these were the three great accomplishments which Dr. McCurdy saw brought about in the army camps in France through the wise use of athletics and recreation.

Dr. McCurdy points out in his paper, "Lessons from France," given at the Twenty-third Convention of the American Physical

LESSONS FROM FRANCE

Education Association, and published in the June, 1919, issue of the American Physical Educational Review, that if athletics can accomplish these three great results for the fighting men, they can be made equally effective for school boys and girls and for men and women in industry.

Further, if the civilian population is to have the benefits which accrued to the fighting men in France, there must be set up and strictly adhered to, certain definite standards along the following lines:

- A. Examination
- B. Health Instruction
- C. Health Activities

A. *Health Examination.* Every child in school and out of school and adults in the factories, should have through the school, through insurance arrangements or some other source, a thorough health examination that we may know what the condition of that individual is in the same way as the condition of every fighting man was determined, through a physical examination. Such an examination however, must result in health direction and the elimination of defects.

B. *Health Instruction.* We need health instruction in order that every boy and girl shall know from the intellectual standpoint, the making of good personal hygiene, home hygiene, community hygiene and public hygiene of various sorts. We need more than that. We need to form health habits through the construction and arrangement of the school program so that the individual boy and girl shall have not merely knowledge but habits and shall live in an environment that makes for health.

C. *Health Activities.* We ought to see to it in our legislation that every public school child has 150 square feet for play space around the school; that every four hundred children have a gymnasium, with a minimum of 50 feet by 80 feet; that these children have time for exercise during the school period, time for bathing, for dressing, for doing the things that make for real vigor.

The types of exercise ought to emphasize this organic big muscle type that is related definitely to a school and that is useful in the trades. The big mass games, that are related to those great fundamentals are also related to fair play and cleanness of life so that it is possible through them to tap the reservoirs of power. We ought to be able to lift to new levels of power through properly directed activities. There should be arranged efficiency tests, organic and objec-

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN FRANCE

tive which should begin with the elementary school children and go up through each grade.

Additional Requirements. In addition to these standards, Dr. McCurdy points out the necessity for making every schoolhouse in the country, a community center; for seeing to it through legislation that all new school buildings have adequate playgrounds which will be used not only during the day but at night; for making possible for every boy before graduation from high school, three months of camp life to do the things he would expect to do if he were a soldier, and for emphasizing in every possible way outdoor life for girls.

"We have been feeling in other countries the social unrest, bolshevism, as it is called; we have been feeling in certain sections of our country the same thing. We have the day divided into three periods approximately, in America, eight hours of work and less than that in many of the trades with the Saturday afternoons taken out; eight hours of sleep, presumably, and eight hours of loafing or organized leisure, whichever we arrange to have the people have. If we have loafing for those men and women we are doing one of the things that is making for social unrest in our communities and in our civic life. It is our patriotic duty to see that the men and women, the adults, have a chance for organized leisure."

Physical Education in France

A recent bulletin of the United States Bureau of Education describes a number of significant developments in France with reference to physical education. The following paragraphs are quoted:

A widespread movement has begun for the improvement and extension of physical education and games throughout the country, not merely to develop agility and endurance in the individual, but to strengthen the nation as a whole. The recently reformed examination for the certificate of primary studies includes a gymnastic exercise. Associated with this movement is the recognition that more attention must be given to medical inspection and treatment of children of school age and pre-school age. The American Red Cross has aroused considerable interest, as, for example, in Lyon, by distribution of leaflets and exhibits on the physical care and welfare of children. Early in 1917 a commission was appointed to study the reorganization of physical training in the schools.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN FRANCE

"In April, 1918, the ministry of public instruction issued a circular to the rectors of the academies urging the development of physical education, games and athletic sports in secondary, normal, and higher elementary schools. It is pointed out that such training could be organized without encroaching on class work. School principals and teachers are asked to encourage the establishment of clubs under their general supervision and with the assistance of advisory committees representing the public and alumni associations. From another point of view, school athletics are advocated as a center for cooperation between parents, teachers, physicians, and pupils.

"*La Ligue française pour l'hygiène scolaire* is actively promoting the introduction of open-air exercise, in which teachers should also participate, and is advocating the introduction of school medical inspection and the keeping of records of physical development. A *Union des sociétés françaises de sports athlétiques* has been established to promote the development of school athletic clubs and to secure playing fields.

"In the course of a recent manifestation in favor of physical education, organized at Bordeaux, M. Henry Pate, deputy, delivered a very interesting address, in which he stated that he and some of his colleagues in the house of deputies had decided to participate actively in the physical education and athletics of the young, in accordance with the following program: (1) To adopt a general method of rational physical instruction, based on a knowledge of the physical needs of the subject, the specialization of the work, and the attraction of the exercise. (2) To create regional schools and a superior school destined to create and maintain unity of methods. (3) To open these schools to the physical instructors of the army, to the monitors of the preparation for military service, and to the instructors of both sexes. (4) To direct the young toward outdoor exercises, giving them freely. (5) To obtain (a) the simplification of school programs, which are frightfully overloaded and tend to destroy energy; (b) the introduction of a physical test in all examinations; (c) the institution of outdoor schools and open-air or outdoor colonies for physically abnormal children; and (d) the complete reorganization of school medical inspection. (6) To assure the employment of special professors of gymnastics. (7) To demand legislation providing for obligatory post-graduate instruction and the introduction of the eight-hour day (*la semaine anglaise*), so as not to injure the vocational work of the adults, or their apprenticeship, or reduce the wages to which they may aspire.

Book Reviews

SOCIAL GAMES AND GROUP DANCES

By J. C. Elsom and Blanche M. Trilling, Department of Physical Education, University of Wisconsin. Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Price, \$1.75 net

Miss Trilling conducted a "Social Hour" for high school boys and girls in the Parker High School in Chicago, in which, beginning as a mob, and an unwilling mob, the students developed a delightful feeling of goodfellowship. Later, this experience prompted Miss Trilling to institute a "play hour" at the University of Wisconsin Summer School. So successful was the "play hour" that soon more leaders and larger quarters were necessary. The "play hour" moved to the men's gymnasium and with Dr. Elsom's cooperation social games were added to the dances. So the book represents tried and proved games and dances for young and old—activities that would provide a rollicking good time and the subtler values of play for a disorganized mass of shy and bewildered folks. The directions are simple and adequate—and the games—even the most informal have a certain chastity and intellectual content that sets them far above the average suggestions of this kind.

BIBLE STORIES FOR CHILDREN

By Mae Stein Soble. Published by James White & Co., New York

These are Bible Stories put into dramatic form. The work has been done reverently and simply. The language of the Bible has been used throughout, and the characters have been made very real. There is a splendid preface by Mrs. Soble telling how these stories in dramatic form can be used to vitalize the work of the Sunday School class. Sunday school teachers and professional story tellers in schools and libraries will find the book a boon. One of the very best things about the book is that it does not strive for dramatic effect. It gives the stories exactly as the Bible gives them, humanly and naively. These stories are arranged chronologically. Far and away the best story-play in the book is "Mother Love Finds a Way." This tells in dramatic form the story of Moses in the bullrushes. The mother of Moses, his little sister Miriam, and even the Egyptian Princess are made veritable and appealing. One could wish that Mrs. Soble had given suggestions about simple scenery for this scene, made of plain screens, and had indicated the Bible costumes, for many a Sunday School will want to add color and life to its work by producing this charming little play. Not all the stories in the book are intended to be acted; the story of the Garden of Eden, and the scene where God speaks to Moses are the type of story that children can read dramatically rather than act; but all the rest of the material in the book is essentiallyactable. The whole volume admirably fulfills its purpose.



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State of New York, County of New York, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. S. Braucher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of THE PLAYGROUND and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher,

Playground and Recreation Association of America, 1 Madison Ave., N. Y. C.
Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., N. Y. C.

Managing Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., N. Y. C.

Business Managers, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., N. Y. C.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.) The P. R. A. A., 1 Madison Ave., N. Y. C., which is composed of about 4,500 members. The following comprise the Board of Directors: Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, Carlisle, Pa.; Dr. Richard C. Cabot, Boston, Mass.; William H. Childs, New York City; Dr. B. Preston Clark, Boston, Mass.; Clarence M. Clark, Phila., Pa.; Grenville Clark, New York City; Everett Colby, Newark, N. J.; Henry W. deForest, New York City; Mrs. E. P. Earle, Montclair, N. J.; Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, West Orange, N. J.; Chas. W. Eliot, Cambridge, Mass.; Dr. John H. Finley, Albany, N. Y.; Robert Garrett, Baltimore, Md.; C. M. Goethe, Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Chas. A. Goodwin, Hartford, Conn.; Austin E. Griffiths, Seattle, Wash.; Dr. J. M. Hankins, Birmingham, Ala.; Myron T. Herrick, Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. A. R. Hillyer, Hartford, Conn.; Mrs. F. DeLacy Hyde, Plainfield, N. J.; Mrs. Howard R. Ives, Portland, Me.; William Kent, Kentfield, Calif.; Gustavus T. Kirby, New York City; G. M. Landers, New Britain, Conn.; H. McK. Landon, Indianapolis, Ind.; Walter B. Lasher, Bridgeport, Conn.; Robert Lassiter, Charlotte, N. C.; Joseph Lee, Boston, Mass.; Eugene W. Lewis, Detroit, Mich.; Edward E. Loomis, New York City; Dr. J. H. McCurdy, Springfield, Mass.; Otto T. Mallery, Phila., Pa.; Samuel Mather, Cleveland, Ohio; Walter A. May, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Carl E. Milliken, Augusta, Me.; F. Gordon Osler, Toronto, Canada; John T. Pratt, New York City; Ellen Scripps, La Jolla, Cal.; Clement Studebaker, Jr., South Bend, Ind.; Harold H. Swift, Chicago, Ill.; F. S. Titsworth, Phila., Pa.; Theodore N. Vail, New York City; Mrs. James W. Wadsworth, Jr., Washington, D. C.; J. C. Walsh, Yonkers, N. Y.; Harris Whittemore, Naugatuck, Conn.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) See list of Directors.

(seal)

William S. Duncan,

Notary Public, Queens Co.

Certified in N. Y. County

Queens Co. Clerk's No. 2715

New York County Clerk's No. 297

Register No. 1322

Cert. Filed in Kings Co.

Kings Co. Clk. No. 56

Kings Co. Reg. No. 1122

(Commission expires March 30, 1921)

Who Will Sign This Check?

No. 1	NEW YORK, December 24th 1913
COLUMBIA TRUST COMPANY	COLUMBIA TRUST COMPANY 1-111 FIFTH AVE. & 34TH ST.
Pay to the order of Playground and Recreation Association of America \$ 100,000	
One Hundred Thousand DOLLARS	
<small>(PAYABLE THROUGH) NEW YORK CLEARING HOUSE</small>	

A Christmas Gift to the Children of Our Country